

Application Serial No: 09/932,735

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5, 7, 18 and 21 as follows:

1 Claim 1. (original) A method comprising:  
2 employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second web  
3 server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server uses a first user  
4 tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores the client  
5 information as a client record in a database;  
6 the first web server directing a client to access a resource at the  
7 second Web-Server;  
8 said resource encapsulating information about a location of the client  
9 record in the database;  
10 the second web server decapsulating the location and retrieving the  
11 client record from the database; and  
12 the second web server using the client record in conjunction with a  
13 second user tracking mechanism.

1 Claim 2. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first and  
2 the second user tracking mechanisms use cookies for storing the user client  
3 information.

1 Claim 3. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first web  
2 server authenticates the client, and the client record includes user  
3 authentication data enabling the second web server to use a common sign-on  
4 with the sign-on of the first web server.

1 Claim 4. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first web  
2 server stores within the client record at least one parameter which  
3 determines at least one characteristic of at least one page to be sent to the  
4 client by the second web server.

1 Claim 5. (currently amended) A method as recited in ~~1~~ 4, wherein said  
2 at least one parameter includes at least one user preference.

1 Claim 6. (original) A method as recited in 5, wherein said at least  
2 one user preference is related to at least one detected purchasing habit.

1 Claim 7. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
2 employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second web  
3 server in a second DNS domain,  
4 enabling said first and second web servers to share cookie information;  
5 and

Application Serial No: 09/932,735

6 coordinating cookies across said first and second domains;  
7 storing a client record in a database by the first web server; and  
8 creating a link to the second web server that encapsulates information  
9 about a location of the client record in the database.

1 Claim 8. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step  
2 of coordinating is performed by a cookie coordinator accessible to said first  
3 and second Web-Servers.

1 Claim 9. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising  
2 providing a cookie coordinator accessible to said first and second Web-  
3 Servers to perform the step of coordinating.

1 Claim 10. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step  
2 of enabling includes the first web server setting a first cookie having a  
3 first identity and the second web server setting a second cookie having a  
4 second identity, and the step of coordinating maps the first and second  
5 identities to a third identity shared across said first and second domains.

1 Claim 11. (original) An apparatus comprising:  
2 means for employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a  
3 second web server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server uses a  
4 first user tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores the  
5 client information as a client record in a database;  
6 means for the first web server directing a client to access a resource  
7 at the second web server;  
8 means for said resource encapsulating information about a location of  
9 the client record in the database;  
10 means for the second web server decapsulating the location and  
11 retrieving the client record from the database; and  
12 means for the second web server using the client record in conjunction  
13 with a second user tracking mechanism.

1 Claim 12. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer  
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein  
3 for causing coordination of a first user tracking mechanism in a first web  
4 server and a second user tracking mechanism in a second web-server, the  
5 computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture  
6 comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to  
7 effect the steps of claim 1.

Application Serial No: 09/932,735

1           Claim 13. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer  
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein  
3 for causing coordination of a first user tracking mechanism in a first web  
4 server and a second user tracking mechanism in a second web-server, the  
5 computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture  
6 comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to  
7 effect the steps of claim 7.

1           Claim 14. (original) A method comprising:  
2           employing a first user tracker in a first domain, and a second user  
3 tracker in a second domain, wherein the first user tracker uses a first user  
4 tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores the client  
5 information as a client record in a database;  
6           the first user tracker directing a client to access a resource at the  
7 second user tracker;  
8           said resource encapsulating information about a location of the client  
9 record in the database;  
10          the second user tracker decapsulating the location and retrieving the  
11 client record from the database; and  
12          the second user tracker using the client record in conjunction with a  
13 second user tracking mechanism.

1           Claim 15. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,  
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to  
3 perform method steps for tracking users, said method steps comprising the  
4 steps of claim 1.

1           Claim 16. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,  
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to  
3 perform method steps for using cookies, said method steps comprising the  
4 steps of claim 7.

1           Claim 17. (original) A computer program product comprising a computer  
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein  
3 for causing tracking of users, the computer readable program code means in  
4 said computer program product comprising computer readable program code means  
5 for causing a computer to effect the functions of claim 11.

1           Claim 18. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
2           employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second web  
3 server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server maintains a first

Application Serial No: 09/932,735

4 private cookie at a browser and the second web server maintains a second  
5 private cookie at the browser;  
6 accessing a cookie coordinator when the first private cookie is  
7 received by the first web-server; ~~and;~~  
8 mapping a first identity in the first private cookie and a second  
9 identity in the second private cookie to a single identity common across the  
10 multiple domains;  
11 storing a client record in a database by the first web server; and  
12 creating a link to the second web server that encapsulates information  
13 about a location of the client record in the database.

1 Claim 19. (original) A method as recited in claim 18, further  
2 comprising:  
3 using the single identity to look up the identity of users across the  
4 different domains, and  
5 the cookie coordinator learning the mapping of the various cookies that  
6 are placed independently on the browser by the different servers.

1 Claim 20. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,  
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to  
3 perform method steps for tracking users, said method steps comprising the  
4 steps of claim 18.

1 Claim 21. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2 a web server interface to interface with a first web server in a first  
3 DNS domain and to interface a second web server in a second DNS domain;  
4 said first web server having:  
5 a first user tracker to collect client information and ~~stores~~  
6 store client information as a client record in a cookie coordinator database;  
7 a redirector for the first web server to direct a client to  
8 access a resource at the second web server;  
9 an encapsulator for said resource to encapsulate information  
10 about a location of the client record in the database; and  
11 said second web server having:  
12 a second user tracker for the second web server to use the client  
13 record in conjunction with a second user tracking mechanism; and  
14 a decapsulator for the second web server to decapsulate a  
15 location and ~~retrieving~~ retrieve the client record from the database.

1 Claim 22. (original) A computer program product comprising a computer  
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein

Application Serial No: 09/932,735

- 3 for causing tracking of users, the computer readable program code means in
- 4 said computer program product comprising computer readable program code means
- 5 for causing a computer to effect the functions of claim 21.